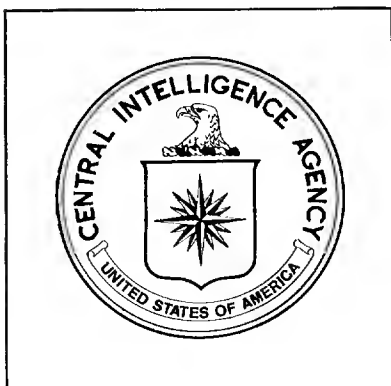


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STAFF NOTES:

**Middle East
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South Asia**

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No. 0821/75
July 3, 1975

Approved For Release 2001/08/08 : CIA-RDP79T00865A001300090001-9

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Approved For Release 2001/08/08 : CIA-RDP79T00865A001300090001-9

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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Sudan

Southern Unrest

Thousands of refugees from southern Sudan are reported to be fleeing into neighboring Ethiopia, apparently as a result of inter-tribal fighting.

According to an Ethiopian government statement, 6,000 southern Sudanese have crossed the border during the past two months, bringing the number of Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia to about 12,000. [REDACTED]

25X1C

25X1C [REDACTED] Bari tribesmen--the dominant group in Sudan's Equatoria Province--have been attacking Nuer and Anuak tribesmen in neighboring Upper Nile Province. The Bari are said to have received modern weapons from the Sudanese army, which is dominated by Arab northerners.

The tribal fighting is apparently going on in the area where there are a number of camps for refugees from the long southern rebellion that ended in 1972. It may be the inhabitants of these camps who are fleeing into Ethiopia to escape the fighting.

Although the black, predominantly Christian southern Sudanese rebels signed a treaty of reconciliation with the Arab-dominated government in 1972, the southerners remain fearful that Khartoum will push for the Arabization of the south. Such misgivings about northern motives have led to the refusal of some former rebel troops to integrate with northern units, as well as to occasional outbreaks of violence. The government may have decided to sow dissension among the southerners by supplying arms and playing upon tribal animosities. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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South Asia

Reaction to Developments in India

India's neighbors have reacted in a measured way to Prime Minister Gandhi's proclamation of emergency and to the events that followed in India.

Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto has ordered a strict official silence and the largely government-controlled press also has been instructed to withhold comment. Bhutto presumably does not want to give Mrs. Gandhi any excuse to make a military move against Pakistan in an attempt to divert popular attention at home from her problems. Bhutto's response probably also reflects in part his assessment of his own position. Although he is already vulnerable to "dictator" charges, Bhutto realizes that he might be compelled to take similar action against opponents in the future. It is in Islamabad's interest to have a stable Indian government and Bhutto almost certainly prefers to deal with a familiar adversary. He probably believes Mrs. Gandhi will emerge victorious and that it makes no sense to antagonize her.

India's smaller neighbors similarly view developments with detachment. While all have some differences with New Delhi, their leaders have generally built good working relations with Prime Minister Gandhi and realize that her fall might complicate bilateral relations and increase regional instability.

While Bangladesh has also refrained from official comment, its government-controlled press has reflected President Mujibur Rahman's pleasure over Mrs. Gandhi's moves. Mujib views them as justifying his own authoritarian behavior and supporting his view that democracy has no place in South Asia. Some Bengalees are concerned, however, that the Indian situation may get out of hand and have a negative impact on Bangladesh.

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Sri Lanka's reaction has also been mild. Prime Minister Bandaranaike is the only South Asian leader who has sent and publicized a message of support for her Indian counterpart. The two leaders have built a close personal relationship and have worked hard over the last two years to settle bilateral differences. Other Sri Lankan officials are worried that events in India may give encouragement to Sri Lankan advocates of an authoritarian approach to the island's problems.

Nepalese officials believe that New Delhi's actions will yield positive political and economic results for Kathmandu. They believe Mrs. Gandhi will find it difficult to continue advocating democratic political reforms in Nepal while denying them in her own country. They also calculate that New Delhi will now end its support of the outlawed Nepali Congress Party, the only organized political group advocating reform in Nepal.

Kabul does not believe Mrs. Gandhi's actions will affect New Delhi's friendly relations with Afghanistan. One high-level Afghan official speculated, however, that developments in India will make the Afghans careful in phrasing their constitution, which is now being drafted.
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